Availability of Diamonds in Garhchirauli and Chanderpur

†2834. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether proof of availability of large quantity of diamonds under the land in Garhchirauli and Chanderpur districts of Vidaharb region has been found in the survey conducted by the Geological Survey of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof

(c) whether Government are aware of the illegal mining work going on in the said region;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same; and

(e) whether the Government are considering commercial mining of diamonds in that region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out detailed search of Kimberlite, Lamproite bodies by way of indicator mineral surveys in Chanderpur and Garhchirauli districts of Vidaharb region. Incidence of small diamond grain, weighing 0.15 carat in Wairagarh area, Garhchirauli district has been discovered from the matrix of a conglomerate.

(c) and (d) Central Government have no information on illegal mining. Responsibility for checking illegal mining, if any rests with the State Governments. Several provisions exist in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to curb illicit mining.

(e) In view of (a) and (b) above question does not arise.

Closure of loss making HZL units

2835. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Zinc Ltd. has decided to close its loss making units;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details of the Units to be closed, including the valuation, performance during the last five years; and

(c) the steps taken by the HZL to protect the interest of employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) to (c) Sargipalli Lead Mine (Orissa), Agnigundala Lead Mines (Andhra Pradesh), Maton Rock Phosphate Mine (Rajasthan) and Tundoo lead Smelter (Jharkhand) have been identified by Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) as economically unviable units based on the operational results and after conducting detailed studies. The losses/profits of these four units during the last five years are given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Profit (+)/Loss (—)

Name of the Unit	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Sargipalli lead Mine	(-) 126	(-) 648	(-) 805	(-) 1266	(-) 1430
Agnigundala Lead Mine	(-) 17	(-) 328	(-) 461	(-) 605	(-) 534
Maton Rock Phosphate Mine	(-) 260	(+) 80	(+) 325	(+) 100	(-) 84
Lead Smelter, Tundoob	(+) 139	(-) 488	(-) 385	(-) 1113	(-) 1088

The interest of the employees is protected by introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS)/Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme (SVRS) from time to time by the Company.

Production/Import of Copper

2836. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the present annual copper production capacity of India;

(b) what is the expected capacity addition in the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the total copper imported in 2000-2001?